



# The Bustle

Editor: Jill Coble

Volume 52, Issue 12

April 2024

## Beta Sigma Phi—Southwest Houston City Council

### President's Message

Greetings Sisters!

Ladies, I don't know about you, but April is my favorite month of the year. Winter is behind us and we haven't yet reached the dreaded triple digit temps that seem to have plagued us these past few years. I like to start off with Spring cleaning. Yes, I actually enjoy this and it's about the only time during the year that my house gets a "top to bottom" cleaning. If you think about it, we can somewhat relate "Spring cleaning" with the start of a sorority year. It's the month that most chapters elect their officers, prepare their calendars, plan their socials, determine their service projects etc. It is a time to reflect back on the past year. What did we do right? What do we need to improve on? It's an opportunity for a fresh start.

Another thing that I look forward to each April is our annual Founder's Day Luncheon. This will be our last council event of the year and the deadline for reservations is quickly approaching. Kindly RSVP to Mary Crochet by April 11th. It's sure to be a fun-filled day with your BSP Sisters.

I hope you have enjoyed the programs at the council meetings this year. We certainly had some creative thinkers putting these skits together. I thank you for your efforts in making the programs so entertaining.

Lastly, I want to let you know that it was a pleasure serving SWHCC as President this year. I especially want to thank Melinda Montgomery, Jill Coble, and Winona LaBrant for the support that they have shown me during this journey. What a great group of women! I guess that since I didn't get impeached, I must have been somewhat successful...LOL...

Seriously though, we are still looking for a volunteer to serve as President next year. Remember what I said at the last council meeting; you will not be left on an island to fend for yourself! You will have those who have served before you, coaching you all along the way. Any Takers?

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Founder's Day Luncheon!

Beta Hugs,  
Sharon



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## This and That.....News from Council

### COUNCIL REMINDERS

Council meeting coming up on Thursday, April 11th. Please look for your evite and respond with your RSVP.

Arrive early and enjoy dinner with your SWHCC Sisters.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS from the BSP International Office

- Chapter Record Reviews are mailed in mid March to the recording secretary. Please verify the chapter roster and notate new officers, status changes, and corrections or additions to the roster. This form is blue and should be returned to International by May 1.
- City Council Officer Sheets are mailed in mid March to the **recording** secretary. Please verify the roster of chapters and notate new officers, and any corrections or additions to the roster of chapters. This form should be returned to International by May 1.

### Editor Notes:

*This month's edition of the Bustle is packed full of news from International and SWHCC Chapters.*

*Make sure you read the Announcements and Important Message from International found on this page.*

*We will soon be celebrating Founder's Day. An invite for the upcoming event can be found on page 6.*

*Until next month.....*

*Jill*



### IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO SHARE WITH ALL MEMBERS PLEASE!

We are hopeful that we all want our wonderful organization, Beta Sigma Phi, to continue. For that reason, starting June 1, 2024 Beta Sigma Phi International annual fees will now be \$55.00 US funds per year. Additionally, reinstatement fees will be \$57.00 US funds. The fees for new member applications, Legacy, Envoy and Angel memberships remain unchanged.

This change is essential to ensure the continued success and longevity of our organization. The funds collected play a crucial role in maintaining the lease of our office space, covering utilities, taxes, insurance, and essential operational expenses.

To clarify the transition period, any fees paid prior to June 1, regardless of your anniversary month, will be at the current rate of \$48.00 US funds. However, starting June 1, the new rate of \$55.00 US funds will apply. For example, if your fees are due in April 2024 and you make the payment prior to June 1, 2024 your fees will be \$48.00 for the April 2024 to April 2025 year. However, if your fees are due in April 2024 and you make the payment on June 1 or thereafter, your fees will be \$55.00 US funds.

We encourage you to share this information with your Paid for Life members and recommend they consider becoming Angelmembers. Further details on the Angel membership program may be found on the Beta Sigma Phi website, or you can reach out to us at (816) 444-6800, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST.

We value your membership and appreciate your continued support.

Beta Sigma Phi International Executive Board



## SWHCC March 2024 Meeting

It was a wild night at Minute Maid Park. Astros radio announcers had no idea what they were in for when they sent their roving reporters into the stands to interview some Astros fans. Two of the memorable moments were when they stumbled across a couple ladies talking about Beta Sigma Phi. Boy, were they in the spirit!









And the Bees were Buzzing!







## *You're Invited*

WATCH BSP GROW & BLOOM

2024 FOUNDER'S DAY

Saturday, April 27, 2024

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Pecan Grove Country Club  
3000 Plantation Drive  
Richmond, Texas 77406


Dinner Choices  
Piccata Chicken  
Piccata Salmon

Ticket Price \$35

CHECK & RSVP

DEADLINE Thursday, April 11, 2024

Mary Crochet  
4030 Dell Lane Missouri City Texas 77459  
EMAIL: [mcrochet@entouch.net](mailto:mcrochet@entouch.net)





See if you can find the words listed below in this word search. Good Luck!

# Sorority

C W G G Y Q X L M K H O F O R C N N U G X J E Y  
E X L E I O B F T N T H F W I A W J M X I C N D  
J G U F B G H I Z S T O G E I T U T V X E W J I  
L A I L I C N U O C Y T I C J G Z Z A O P E T D  
Y T S M A R G O R P L A R U T L U C E L S I A S  
E V G P E U R O A G I K G P R V V V C I I Q V E  
G H Z H S L A U T I R K N X E T X P I H L X L Q  
Z O P B Q L F D F T D C I J O K U T V P O G A D  
K O C S U R A G R Q C R S U W U Z S R A N E N P  
V M O P R L T S G C U L I Y O I N X E M M Z O G  
H A U U I H Q W G T R H A A M L D M S G U P I B  
S A L S S E E A J I U Y R T A G U S H I Y K T Z  
T U O E C Q W U G O E E D G N Z Y V G S K Z A G  
J H M O N T H E N L D N N B O J Y K K A K E N M  
H C C P Y T N Z L Q I W U F F B J W I T V T R C  
K R S U C I I O W I A O F Y T X L Q S E T F E R  
R O Y V H S W N H Y D Q J K H M Q Z H B X D T L  
V T H S D R L P E W K U N E E Z J B S H A A N F  
E W N D O B P B R Q U C G R Y I Y Y O S R U I F  
G U M S E Q E Y Q X U D B N E L K B C Z X B X K  
S T E D J Y K J X Z E E Q L A H S B I S K D C D  
U C X I R F P T F L S B E W R Z M U A M M B E P  
W I S K C N O L P I Z S S N R S C C L Y M T T L  
J F F N G A Q V H U Y P W A S A M C S E M R A V

Cultural Programs

Beta Sigma Phi

Xi Epsilon Mu

Yellow Rose

Socials

Torch

Woman of the Year

Sunshine Girl

City Council

Service

Rituals

Valentine Queen

International

Fundraising

By Laws

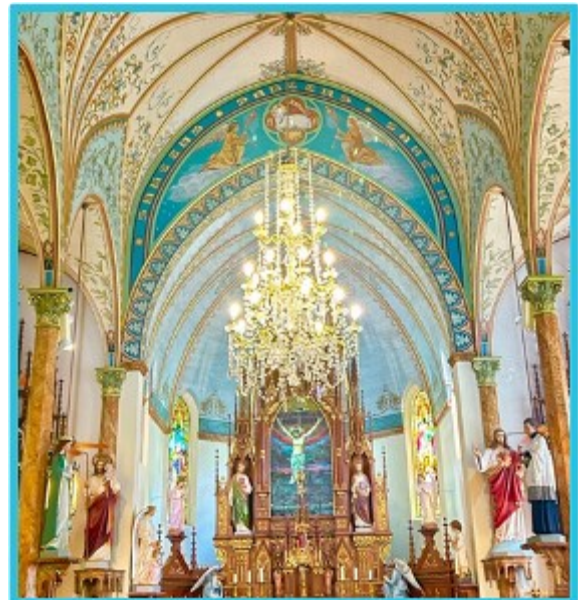
Pledge



### MARCH SOCIAL

"The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also".  
--Harriet Ann Jacobs

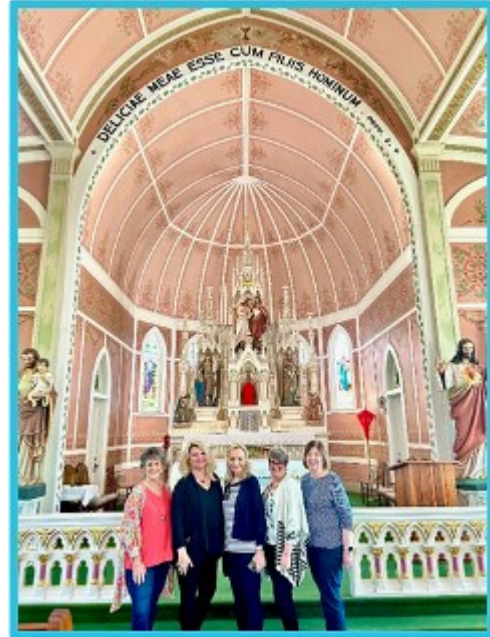
The March ADT social found us visiting the small town of Schulenberg, Texas. There we visited "The Painted Churches." These beautiful historic churches were constructed in the late 1800s, predominantly by Czechoslovakian immigrants. They were adorned with intricate painted stenography, imported stained glass windows and beautiful gold-plated alters.





## ALPHA DELTA THETA....PAGE 2

The hand-made tapestries depicting the life of Jesus and the beautiful hand hewn oak wood pews were indicative of the craftsmanship of that time.



Outside the churches were old cemeteries, majestic oaks, and various livestock and cattle on green fields of wildflowers that added to the charm of the surroundings. Afterwards, we enjoyed a great lunch with our guide Gigi at the Garden Company. It was a fun day spent with our sisters.





### MARCH MEETING

ADT March monthly meeting was hosted by Diane Leive at her beautiful home in Richmond. She served a delicious meal including a variety of Potbelly sandwiches, potato salad, an awesome cheeseball and crackers, appetizer skewers, fruit, cheesecake bites and Cheryl's Spring cookies.



March was also our Secret Sister exchange, and the theme was a gift to help your Secret Sister get ready for Spring. Sisters enjoyed reading cards and opening their Spring gifts.



Hostess Diane presented a program on the "Flowering Dogwood. It is a small deciduous tree naïve to eastern North America and northern Mexico. They typically flower in early April in the south and late April/early May in the north. Historical uses include a remedy



## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 4

for malaria by Native Americans, red dye, with the wood being used for golf clubs, mallets, wooden rake teeth, tool handles and butcher blocks.

Because of its role in the crucifixion of Christ, it is said God both cursed and blessed the dogwood tree. It was cursed to be forever small, so that it would never grow large enough again for its wood to be used as a crucifixion cross. The narrow and crooked brancher would not be good for building. However, it was blessed with beautiful flowers each spring just in time for Easter. God given traits include: petals forming the shape of a cross, the middle flower grouping resembling a "crown of thorns", tips of each petal are indented as if bearing a nail dent.

It is the state tree and flower of Virginia, the state tree of Missouri and the state flower of N. Carolina. It was used to treat dogs with mange which may be how it got its name. While not poisonous, the red berries are extremely sour and have an unpleasant taste.



Following the program, Diane had a fun "Saint Patrick's Day" word search game for all to play. Barbara was the winner of the word search game and received a prize. Jill was the winner of the raffle prize.





## ON A PERSONAL NOTE



Pam and Mark McDuffie celebrating their grandchildren's birthdays in Louisiana. Happiest of birthdays to Ella and Hains.



Renita Hudson was with friends and family enjoying another Houston Rodeo/Cookoff this year. Great times, great company and soooo much delicious food. Here's to another amazing Houston Rodeo season.



## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 5



Sisters Pam, Cynde and Renita  
lunching at Ciro's Italian Res-  
taurant. CIAO!!

On Saturday March 23 Karen Sweet-Angel's daughter Sahar "married" PJ, her soul mate, at The Loren at Pink Beach, in the Bahamas. This celebration was a long time coming as the couple dealt with COVID and family tragedies. Fifty close friends and family celebrated with the couple. The weekend included a catamaran outing, a happy hour reception on Friday evening, the ceremony Saturday evening and a farewell brunch Sunday morning. Please join us in wishing the happy couple a life filled with love, happiness and many more adventures.





## ALPHA DELTA THETA...PAGE 5





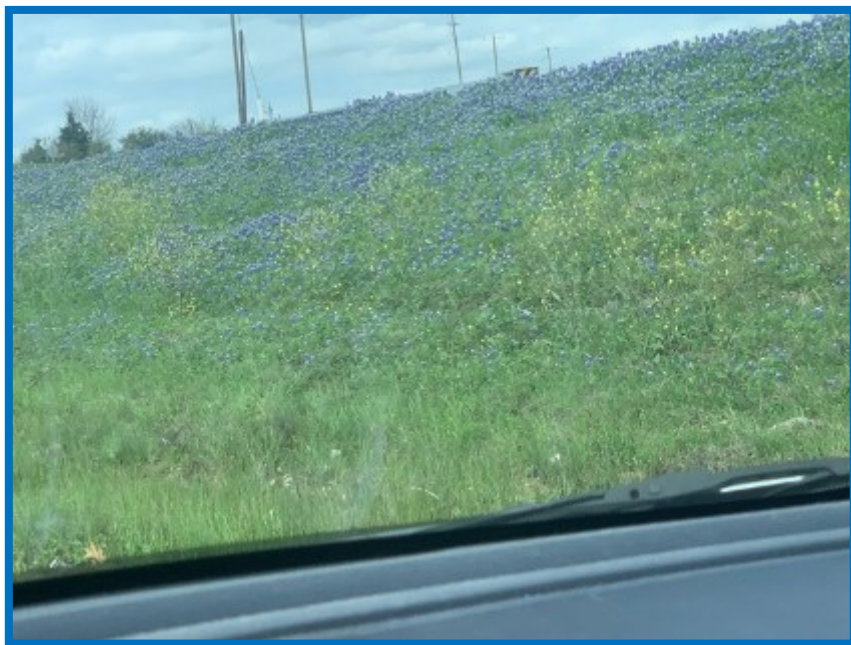
# LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA

REPORTER: SHIRLEY GRASS

Hi it's me again, Shirley reporting for LIO

My grandson Jake has been home from Germany so had to make a couple trips to Fort Worth to see him. The Air Force agrees with him. He's gained about 15 pounds and has a more confident air about him. We will hate to see him go back.

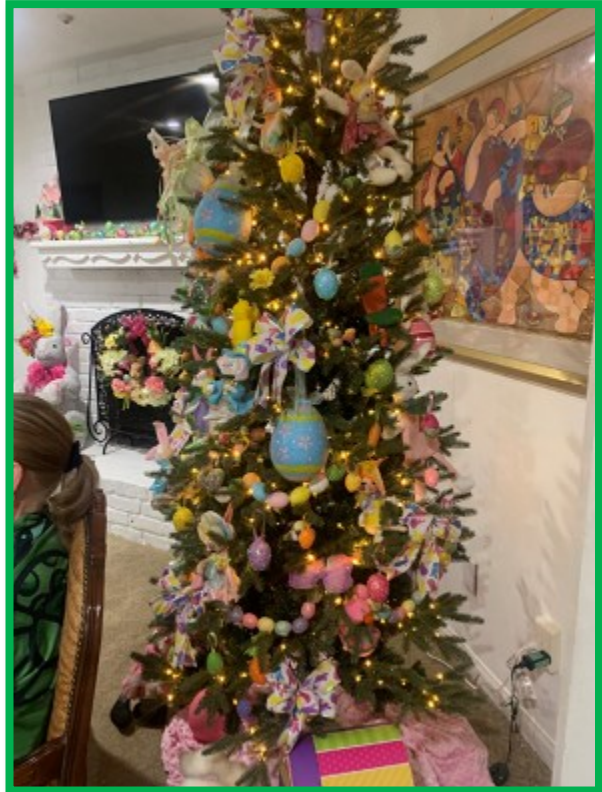
The bluebonnets and Indian paintbrushes were beautiful along highway 45 up to DFW. Also spotted beautiful dog woods and red bud trees around Huntsville.





## LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA...PAGE 2

LIO had a meeting/social at Joan's home Sunday evening. As usual Joan's home was totally decorated for Easter even displaying an Easter Tree. Joan made the best pork sliders and guests bought baked beans, potato salad, Asian salad and a variety of other things. Oh did I mention two desserts! We still have some good cooks!





## LAUREATE IOTA OMEGA...PAGE 3

We had a secret ballot for WOY. Such a hard decision since we have so many ladies in our chapter that work so hard. We also voted on Woman with Something Extra. Again another hard decision. We also discussed officers for next year. I think our slate is ready for next month!

After all this we played Bunco! Prize winners were Barbara Henderson, Becky, Gayle and myself!

Mary just got back from a cruise on that big ship. It holds 6200 passengers. She had a lovely time but commented it was quite big and she might have to get a scooter in order to get all over the ship.

Becky announced she is moving. She has decided to downsize and move into a one bedroom/study apartment. Don't worry she will still be in Sugar Land.

Barbara Hupe will be going to Montgomery for a few days. A good friend of hers is having knee surgery and she will be helping out.

Gayle just got back from a trip to New York City where she chaperoned a group of students one of which was her granddaughter. Students were well behaved. They were able to take in many of the sights, a Broadway play, eat pizza and many other things.

Barbara Henderson will have eye surgery this month. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Vicky is looking forward to serving as our president next year.

June is still recuperating after having heart tests which put her back in hospital.

Bobbie has started physical therapy on her shoulder. We are hoping this will speed up her recovery. Good news regarding her son Erick. He was able to get an apartment through Catholic charities. What a great organization, they even furnished it with all the necessities. What a great blessing and a new beginning.

Joan never stops. After putting on a beautiful Sweetheart Ball, she turns around and host our social and meeting. You all know she still teaches full time. We all admire her energy. She does it all with such grace and smiles.

Hope you all had a great St Patrick's Day and drank green beer or maybe green kool aid. May you all have a blessed Holy Week and a very Happy Easter.

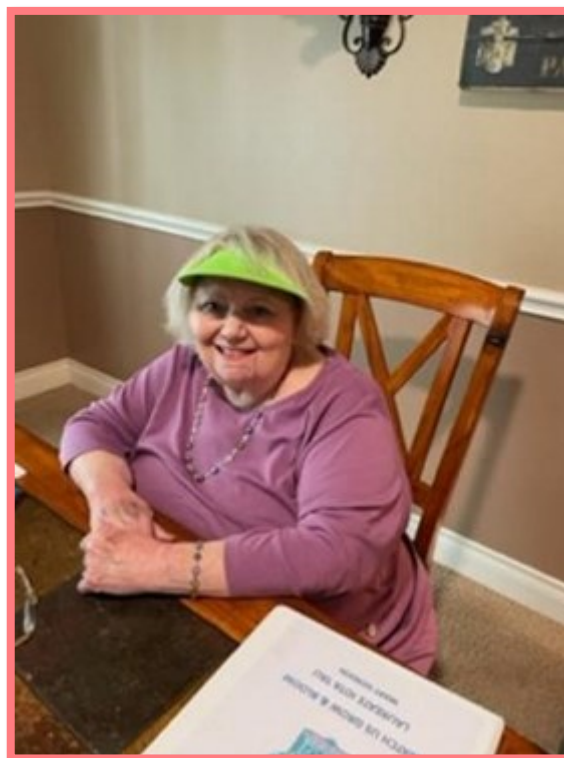
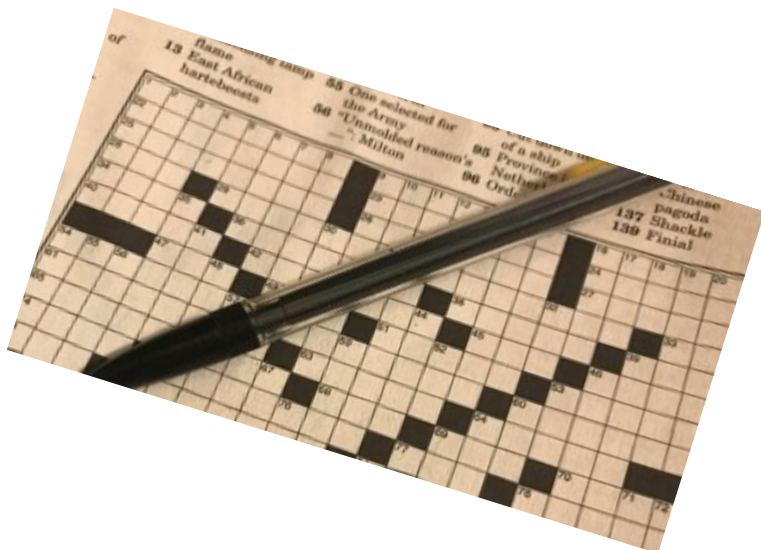


# LAUREATE IOTA TAU

**REPORTER: LINDA DASPIT**

LIT members got together at Mary's home in Cypress with lunch, a good catch-up, our meeting, & a program continuing with our theme of self-discovery, where Mary talked about one of her favorite daily activities: The New York Times crossword puzzle.

We were all happy to have Mary host as we had not seen her in a while.





## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 2

These two decided that they will be exchanging roles for the new sorority year, so Frances will be our new President and Linda will be Treasurer.



Now to figure out who else will be on our new executive board





## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 3

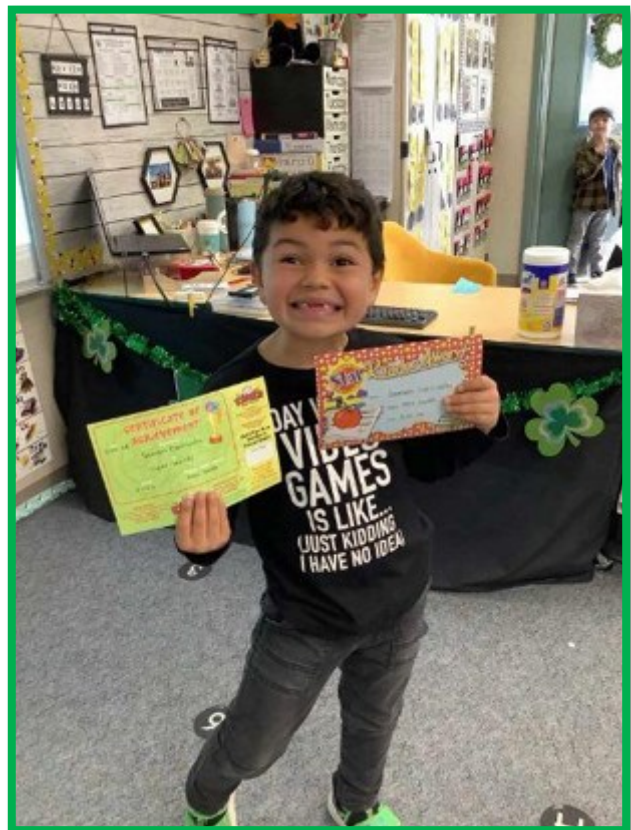
Gaye Lynn organized a lovely birthday party for Ralph, her hubby along with his brother & wife, and son & fiancée. He had a phone call from the grands and thoughtful gifts from the California loves. Gaye Lynn's King Ranch casserole and Mexican chocolate went down well as did the cookie-cake from Brian & Brianna.





## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 4

Samson's sweet smile for Poppy's St. Pat's birthday & showing off his 55 sight word awards at school.



New additions to Gaye Lynn's grandchildren's lives: these two adorable 8-week-old lab pooches - Bunny & Chloe.





## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 5

Frances' daughter, Stephanie, has been awarded a \$10,000 grant for nonfiction books for her school library. It was the largest grant awarded & she wrote it herself! Well done Steph! Your students will really enjoy all the new books.



Frances' precious grandsons are both on baseball teams called the Aggies! Quite ironic as Frances went to UT & doesn't own a maroon shirt. Looks like she will need to get one soon!





## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 6

Linda & Tom flew to St. Augustine, Florida - the oldest town in the US - to celebrate her (belated) birthday. The seafood was wonderful everywhere they went. The town was very interesting - the original Spanish fort still stands and as much of the history has been saved as possible. A Spanish galleon was restored with a fiberglass hull to ensure seaworthiness and still makes the journey from the new world to the old world regularly.





## LAUREATE IOTA TAU....PAGE 7

Johnette's daughter, Marcia, and her fifth-grade grandchildren spent a fun day with pizza dinosaurs, and ice cream.





# PRECEPTOR NU

REPORTER: SHAWN DORN

## CHAPTER MEETING March 6, 2024

As our March Madness Meeting Hostess, Mickie Wright ALWAYS delivers! She goes to the ends of the earth to insure her decorations are more than sufficient and way above par. Easter was our theme for this meeting held at our beloved Hilton Gardens Inn.





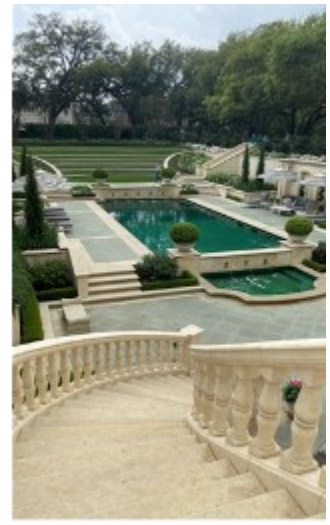
## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 2

### THE 87th AZALEA TRAIL - River Oaks Garden Club, MARCH 8th SOCIAL



Toni, her two daughters, Maria Eliana & Cari, Shawn, Rosina and Carolyn blazed the perfumed, colorful floral array of The River Oaks trails of several especially selected mansions' magnificent, awe dropping gardens! These are among

the exclusive luxuries reserved solely for the most privileged individuals. Gardens that up until this trip, for me, I had only seen in the movies featuring "the richest and most famous" lifestyles. Being personally present amongst all this spectacular beauty is akin to being delightfully intoxicated. We all had a glorious time together.



We were allowed access to a few rooms within the Imma Hogg Mansion. And, although we weren't permitted inside any of the other Mansions whose gardens we explored, one of the Mansions actually had a Chapel on their grounds which we were allowed to enter and appreciate.





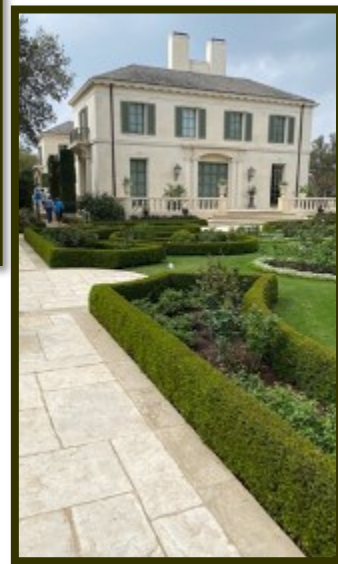
Portrait of Imma Hogg

Chapel on a Mansion's property grounds



Full size Sheep Easter décor.

The Gardener's Quarters. (Not!!!)



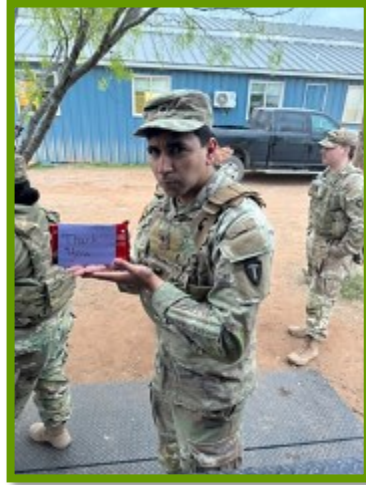
### CHARITY BEGINS WITH US

STEPHANIE CALVINO hits a TRIPLE WIN in finding a clever, unique, affordable way to give back.

Stephanie Calvino sent over \$200 of girl scout cookies and thank you notes to our National Guard working the Texas border crisis. She said, "My baby brother and his unit really appreciated it."







"It also helped my husband's co-worker to get her daughter to reach her girl scout goal." The money came from a Forester's Financial Care Grant, so it didn't cost anything!

Great way to think out of the box, Stephanie!

### ANNUAL GUATEMALAN ALFOMBRA

CARIELEN AND TONI LAAS worked on their annual Guatemalan Alfombra at United Methodist Church in Sugar Land. As a Catholic Country it is their tradition to create these carpets with different designs all made out of sand, sawdust, flowers, fruits and vegetables. They place these all around the streets where the religious processions pass on their way to the church. Toni said, "In our case, since our church sponsors 'Faith in Practice', we donate this 'alfombra' for Palm Sunday. Cari designed it all, I only worked on the corn around the outer edge."





## PRECEPTOR NU...PAGE 5

SHAWN DORN volunteers at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. A "Perk" of her volunteering allows her to bring a guest to the Rodeo and the Performances. This year she invited Carolyn to see "For King & Country" and Brad Paisley.

Rosina joined Shawn for the "Whiskey Meyers" Performance.

### BOOT SCOOT 'N BOOGIE SOCIAL at the Lone Star Saloon, Richmond, TX March 23<sup>rd</sup>



PN's Social, "Boot Scoot & Boogie" at the Lone Star Saloon - we put the yee-haw in line dancing! Carolyn's daughter-in-law, Claudia Bridges gave us the 411 on how to line dance to the best country songs







We extend to all of you our sincerest wishes for a meaningful and blessed Easter .



# XI ALPHA ZETA

REPORTER: JEANNE MELTON

XAZ's 1st March meeting was held at the home of GiGi Kennell with Dina Rayle as co-hostess. We feasted on an amazing charcuterie board as an appetizer then had a wonderful meal of lemon pasta with chicken cutlets with a variety of fresh veggies for the picking. For dessert we had a choice of mini cupcakes or cheesecake.



Miriam Langford in South Louisiana celebrating with her first cousins.



Cultural Program: GiGi Kennell shared her love of everything ivy as we toured her home showcasing her swiss cheese ivy, string of pearls ivy, wandering jew ivy and prayer plant ivy only naming a few.



## XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 2



XAZ's 2nd March meeting was a social/meeting held in honor of our sweetheart, Jeanne Murray. We met at Local Table in Fulshear where GiGi Kennell arranged our gathering to celebrate, share a tasty meal, and discuss business.





## XI ALPHA ZETA...PAGE 3



Jeanne Murray opening her gift from the Sweet-heart Ball Committee.





*Beta Sigma Phi  
Southwest Houston  
City Council*

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***www.betasigmaphiswhcc.org***

**Motto:  
Life, Learning,  
Friendship**

**BΣΦ**



**2022—2023 Executive Board**

**Sharon Pietruniak—President**

**Gigi Kennell—Vice President**

**Barbara Meurer—Recording Secretary**

**Barbara Kupe—Corresponding Secretary**

**Carina Kadnot—Treasurer**

**Melinda Montgomery—Parliamentarian**

